IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CE/VED

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Appl. No.

Applicant Filed

T.C./A.U.

Examiner

Docket No.

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Customer No.:

20786

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 26, 2004

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

In responsive to the Office Action mailed November 25, 2003, please enter the following amendments and kindly consider the attached remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the "Listing of Claims", which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks and Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Response to Office Action, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.